Message Text

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FOR EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF INTOURIST OFFICES IN

NEW YORK

REF: STATE 33902 AND PREVIOUS

1. AMEXCO'S MOSCOW REP (TEDESCO) CONFIRMED TO COMATT FEBRUARY 18 THAT INTOURIST HAD OFFERED AMEXCO GROUND LEVEL OFFICE SPACE ON SADOVOYE KOL'TSO AT NO. 21A SADOVOYA KUDRINSKAYA -- BETWEEN U.S. EMBASSY AND PEKIN HOTEL NEAR PAKISTANI EMBASSY AND ON SAME SIDE OF STREET (NORTH). ALTHOUGH IT WOULD REQUIRE AN AMPLE AMOUNT OF WORK TO PUT IN SHAPE, ACCORDING TO TEDESCO, SITE FEATURES THREE LARGE WINDOWS FACING ON STREET EACH WITH DIMENSIONS OF APPROXIMATELY 8 FEET BY 14 FEET. TOTAL WORKING AREA ESTIMATED AT 300 SQUARE METERS BROKEN DOWN BETWEEN 250 SQUARE METERS OF GROUND FLOOR SPACE AND FIFTY SQUARE METERS OF BALCONY SPACE SUITABLE FOR FILE ROOM AND STORAGE. IN GENERAL. TEDESCO SAID THAT SUGGESTED NEW SITE OFFERED UNIQUE PUBLIC VISIBILITY DESPITE FACT THAT, AS NOTED REFTEL, IT IS LOCATED SOME DISTANCE FROM MOST LARGE TOURIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOTELS IN MOSCOW.

2. TEDESCO SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO RESOLUTION OF TWO PROBLEM AREAS, PRICE AND AVAILABILITY SINCE FEBRUARY 9 (DATE CITED REFTEL FOR DEPARTMENT'S LAST CONTACT WITH AMEXCO NEW YORK ON THIS SUBJECT). TEDESCO SAID THAT AMEXCO WOULD NOT SEND A PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY ASSESSOR

(EVALUATOR) TO MOSCOW TO INSPECT OFFERED SPACE UNTIL SOVIETS HAD ASSURED FIRM IN WRITING THAT PRICE RANGE FOR RENTAL OF NEW OFFICE AREA WAS NOT ABOVE AVERAGE CHARGED TO OTHER U.S. FIRMS AT, SAY, POKROVSKY BUL'VAR 4/17. AS REGARDS AVAILABILITY, TEDESCO SAID THAT AMEXCO WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOVIET ASSURANCES THAT OCCUPANCY COULD TAKE PLACE IN "REASONABLY" SHORT TIME.

3. EMBASSY HEARTILY CONCURS IN DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO WITHHOLD APPROVAL OF INTOURIST PLANS TO RELOCATE IN NEW YORK UNTIL AMEXCO CAN RECEIVE ASSURANCES FROM SOVIETS AS TO RENTAL CHARGES AND SEND A MAN IN TO ASSESS SUITABILITY OF PROFFERED NEW LOCATIBHQGZ. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO KEEP ON TOP OF THIS SO THAT NO TIME WILL BE LOST BETWEEN AMEXCO'S DECISION AND SUBSEQUENT NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT. MATLOCK

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